

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (new): A computer-readable medium encoded with a software tool for instructing a computer to generate an output file, the software tool comprising an instruction for the computer to add a watermark to the output file for identifying the output file as having been produced by the system.

Claim 19 (new): The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the software tool comprises a computer-aided design (CAD) tool.

Claim 20 (new): The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein the CAD tool comprises an integrated circuit (IC) design tool.

Claim 21 (new): The computer-readable medium of Claim 20, wherein the output file has a form of at least one of hardware description language (HDL), register transfer level description (RTL), a macro, a hard macro, a soft macro, a core, a hard core, a soft core, a net-list, a synthesizable net-list, a layout, a process-independent layout, and a process-dependent layout.

Claim 22 (new): The computer-readable medium of Claim 18, wherein the watermark comprises at least one of non-functional data, a naming convention, a spacing convention, an ordering convention, and non-functional elements.

Claim 23 (new): A computer-readable medium encoded with an integrated circuit (IC) design file comprising a watermark, the watermark identifying the IC design file as having been produced

by computer-aided design (CAD) tools from a particular CAD company.

Claim 24 (new): The computer-readable medium of Claim 23, wherein the IC design file has a form of at least one of hardware description language (HDL), register transfer level description (RTL), a macro, a hard macro, a soft macro, a core, a hard core, a soft core, a net-list, a synthesizable net-list, a layout, a process-independent layout, and a process-dependent layout.

Claim 25 (new): The computer-readable medium of Claim 23, wherein the watermark comprises at least one of non-functional data, a naming convention, a spacing convention, an ordering convention, and non-functional elements.